

## Sensory Shoes Help the Blind Walk with Confidence

**R**ichard Castle was just trying to come up with a good idea-something that hadn't been done in the past-for his senior capstone project in assistive technology to complete his requirements in electrical and computer engineering.

At the end of the project, his supervisors—Assistive Technology Program director Donn Clark, retired professor of electrical and computer engineering, and Alan Rux, technical support associate—were surprised at what Castle had accomplished.

Clark says, "As Richard Castle gave his final presentation, the more he talked, the more I smiled. He had not only accomplished what he set out to do, he had done it in a very professional, efficient way. The final product was there. He found his own client. He was self-motivated and self-directed."

Castle is more matter-of-fact.

"I started thinking of a way I could help the blind. I thought about it very hard," he wrote. "A blind person has to use a walking stick to look for objects in their way. This makes them look handicapped and is not an enjoyable way to get around."

Castle decided to create a sensing system that could replace the walking stick. Sensors would locate objects and some sort of alarm would alert the person to obstructions and also tell how far away they were. If he could manage to make it small enough, the whole system would fit onto a pair of shoes.

"My original idea was to put the sensors on the shoes and run wires up to a belt pack for the alerting mechanism," says Castle. "I didn't think I could miniaturize it enough to put on the shoes."

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▲ Richard Castle has created a sensory system for the blind that identifies where and how far away obstacles are, without using a cane. His invention was a capstone senior design project for electrical and computer engineering.

## O'Leary Library Renovation Nears Completion

**O**'Leary Library is undergoing an eight-month renovation that will make room for the Graduate School of Education, relocate the entire book collection to the fourth floor, and revamp the first floor and mezzanine for student-related activities.

The \$500,000 project, which began in October, is scheduled for completion in May.

Work is nearly finished on the first two floors, which, according to Joe Caulfield, special assistant to the provost, will be dedicated to student services.

The first floor enhancements include relocating the administration offices to a centralized area. In addition, the library staff will be trained in all aspects of circulation to provide better service to students. There will be 20 new computers available for research, new furniture, and artwork and freshly painted rooms to create a more appealing environment.

The mezzanine, formerly office and storage space, will provide students with a larger study area. Two group study rooms, with glass walls to provide privacy with openness and natural lighting, will occupy one section of the mezzanine.

The third floor will continue to house the Center for Learning and the College of Health faculty offices.

The fourth floor will be redesigned to hold the entire book collection. This involves moving approximately 250,000 volumes. Responsible for mapping, coordinating and overseeing the merge of the fifth floor book collection to the fourth floor is Marion Muskewicz, head of public services.

The fifth floor will provide an interim home for the Graduate School of Education, which eventually will move to the Lawrence Mill building.

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## "Thinking Out Loud" Connects Through Radio

**S**pin the radio dial, and you might be struck by the similarity of it all.

Music, more music, chitchat, a little news, the occasional national feature on public radio-where are the distinctive local voices?

But one morning a week on WJUL, the seldom-heard are heard loud and clear on "Thinking Out Loud," now in its fourth year.

Thinking Out Loud is a production of UMass Lowell's Center for Family, Work and Community (CFWC) and produced by Project Manager Dan Toomey. From six a.m. to noon on Wednesdays, a series of regular programs connects listeners with issues of labor, the environment,

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## Student Admin Section of PeopleSoft Enters the 'Home Stretch'

**T**he PeopleSoft project is in the "home stretch" for the student administration section with the implementation of student records, financial aid and student financials scheduled for October 2004, according to Chief Information Officer Jeff Thompson.

"That may sound like a long way off, but the conversion of course information data will begin this summer," Thompson says. "We already have implemented human resources, financial aid and the first phase of student administration."

The major benefit of the PeopleSoft student system, he says, is the increased access to accurate and timely information.

Students, faculty, staff and administrators now use many systems to process, analyze and report on student-related information. Finding current, accurate



▲ Jeff Thompson

information can be a challenge. The PeopleSoft student system creates a single version of accurate data.

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## Chancellor Addresses Faculty and Staff

Despite difficult economic times, UMass Lowell will maintain its commitment to offering its students a high quality education, Chancellor William T. Hogan told faculty and staff during presentations on North and South campuses on February 20.

"Ten years ago, we made a commitment to improve the quality of what we do and the way we do it at the Lowell campus," he said. "Through our reorganization and reallocation programs, we accomplished that."

Due to the state's fiscal situation, the campus budget could experience as much as a 20 percent reduction in funding for fiscal year 2004, which begins this July.

"The state has a big hole to fill in its budget, and higher education usually gets a larger percentage reduction than other state agencies because our funding is discretionary," he said.

Over the past 10 to 20 years, state support of public higher education has been decreasing, a phenomenon taking place across the country, Chancellor Hogan pointed out. From 1992 to 2000, the campus maintained its purchasing power by "shrinking programs, improving technology and streamlining the way we did business." He thanked faculty and staff for their hard work in making that process successful.

More recently, steadily reduced state funding resulted in a \$10 million loss of purchasing power. Increases in student fees and borrowing from the campus's quasi-endowment covered that loss, the Chancellor explained.

The Chancellor outlined his plan for finding the resources necessary to maintain campus quality. He remains optimistic about meeting the 2006 goals for revenue generated by Continuing Studies and Corporate and Distance Education, fund raising and the commercialization of technology. "These sources are going to help us eventually, but they are not going to solve the problem we have to face this July," he said.

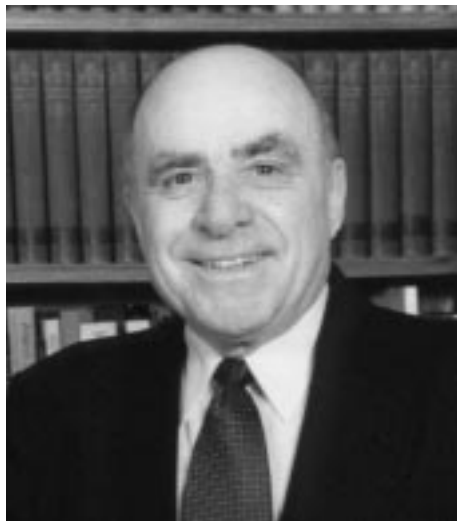
Chancellor Hogan asserted that it will be necessary to raise student fees. "In the short term, there is no other solution," he said. He noted that such an action could only be taken by the UMass Board of Trustees, and that projected increases could be between \$2,000 and \$3,000 annually.

He pointed out that any increase in student fees would be accompanied by a renewed campus commitment to meet at least 93 percent of demonstrated financial need for qualified students, the same commitment in place in recent years. "This past year," he said, "we actually met 95 percent of need, so we're doing fine on that promise."

The Chancellor asserted that this campus is in a good position to compete for students even with increased costs. "If we raise student fees by \$3,000, the total cost of our tuition and fees will still be between one-third and one-half the cost of the schools we compete with."

Chancellor Hogan also pointed out the competitive advantage that has resulted from the campus's efforts to improve quality. "The publicity we've had has been very good. We are known for the good quality of our faculty and staff and for offering quality programs. We currently have received 500 more applications than we had last year at this time."

"Thank you for doing what you've been doing," he concluded.



▲ Chancellor William T. Hogan

## Colombian Union Leader Speaks on "War on Workers"

A Colombian union leader was on campus last month to seek help for his country's workers, thousands of whom he says have been assassinated by paramilitary groups.

Speaking through a translator, Hector Giraldo, who is one of 20 Colombian trade unionists in the U.S. on a temporary asylum sponsored by the AFL-CIO, spoke to a group of about 50 students and faculty members in Lydon Library. His talk focused on Plan Colombia, the country's assistance program which receives U.S. funding, which Giraldo said supports the Colombian military that is linked to groups believed responsible for the deaths of 3,800 union leaders since 1985.

"Thousands and thousands of union workers are being assassinated," he claimed. "If a union is successful in organizing, then paramilitaries find them and try to make them disavow the laws and give up their rights. When the workers refuse to do this, then they start to kill them."

Giraldo said that while the world perception is that the violence in his country is driven solely by drug trafficking, he claimed about 10,000 paramilitaries routinely murder and suppress the rights of citizens who oppose government policies. In addition to union leaders, human rights activists, community service providers, journalists, educators and priests often are targeted, he said.

Giraldo, a highway worker who has been an elected union officer since the 1980s, said activists and their families must continually relocate, estimating that about 1,000 unionists are in hiding.

"The risk of assassination goes down when we are away from the country. Then we return to our country," he said.

Giraldo asked the audience to contact their representatives in Congress to express concern for the people of his country and the funding of Plan Colombia. He said that while his country is rich in minerals and natural resources, including petroleum, 60 percent of the population lives in poverty.

"Without your help it'll be impossible for us to achieve the Colombian dream which is important to us," he said. "We need your help to move our country forward."

The talk was sponsored by UMass Lowell's Labor Extension Program, Department of Work Environment, Peace and Conflict Studies Institute, and centers for Sustainable Production, Diversity and Pluralism; Regional Economic and Social Development; and Family, Work and Community. Off-campus sponsors included the Coalition for a Better Acre, United Teachers of Lowell Local 495, Merrimack Valley Central Labor Council, North Shore Labor Council, Merrimack Valley Project and Mogan Cultural Center.



▲ Hector Giraldo, second from right, a Colombian union leader, spoke last month to students and faculty about "Plan Colombia and the War on Colombian Workers." University organizers of the event included, from left, Susan Winning, Labor Extension Program coordinator; Cathy Crumbley, Lowell Center for Sustainable Production coordinator; and Judy Coughlin, North East Skills Training Program director.

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**Vice Chancellor for University Relations and Development:**  
Dr. Frederick P. Sperounis

**Executive Director of Communications and Marketing:**  
Christine Dunlap

**Editor:**  
Mary Lou Hubbell

**Staff Writers:**  
Geoffrey Douglas  
Paul Marion  
Jack McDonough

**Other Writers:**  
Renae Lias Claffey  
Elizabeth James  
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Rick Sherburne

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# Black Arts Festival Hits All the Notes

Between 1882 and 1968, there were more than 4,700 recorded lynchings in the United States according to Prof. Caryn Bell of History. Of those, nearly three quarters were of African Americans.

This sad chapter in American



▲ The Black Arts Festival featured poet Askia Toure, reading poetry and talking about his experiences as the founder of the Black Arts Movement. Toure is the author of *From the Pyramids to the Projects: Poems of Genocide and Resistance and Dawnsong!: The Epic Memory of Askia Toure*.

history inspired numerous pieces of art and music, in particular, the song "Strange Fruit" performed by jazz great Billie Holiday. It was this song that was the focus of one of the many events that comprised the Black Arts

Festival at the University in February.

Dozens of students and faculty watched pieces of a documentary on the song as a vehicle of social protest. In addition, they were also treated to a discussion of Holiday's career by Eric Jackson, host of WGBH's "Jazz With Eric in the Evening."

"She came to the songs that she sang like an instrumentalist," said Jackson. "She could make you feel the words."

"Strange Fruit" is a haunting melody that describes the horror of a lynching. While Holiday made the song famous, it was actually composed by Abel Meeropol, a Jewish American from New York who wrote under the pseudonym Lewis Allen.

The Black Arts Festival featured a variety of events throughout the month including concerts by UMass Lowell music students, a poetry reading by author Askia Toure, jazz flutist Galen Abdur-Razzaq and a dance performance by *Step Afrika!*.

The festival was sponsored by the ALANA Student Center, the Center for Diversity and Pluralism, Freshmen Programs, the Lowell Cultural Council, Media Services and the English, History and Music Departments.

—RS



▲ Eric Jackson, left, was welcomed to campus by Prof. Caryn Bell, history, and Erik Shaw, assistant to the dean of Freshmen Programs. Jackson, the host of "Jazz With Eric in the Evening" on WGBH-FM, spoke about the career of jazz singer Billie Holiday.

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## Sensory Shoes Help the Blind Walk with Confidence

He did, though, with persistent searching for very small components. The sensors, each about the size of a quarter, are from a Canadian company. Each is a small infrared transmitter and receiver combination that has a range of about one meter.

The infrared beam is narrow, so the client can "scan" with the sensor and locate small and large obstructions, and doorways and openings, whereas a wide beam would just indicate an obstacle "somewhere" in the beam, with no indication of size.

Next Castle turned to the problem of making the person aware of the obstruction—some warning device. He rejected speakers as "obnoxious" and too conspicuous, and then thought about vibrating motors. Again the challenge was size and the solution was a vibrating motor, about the size of a dime, devised for cellular phones.

"At this point, the only thing I had to worry about was the circuitry involved in getting these two devices to talk to each other," says Castle.

And somehow to fit all the circuitry into one AAA battery slot.

The elegance of the design solution is in the circuitry. The electronics can control any of the three sensors and three vibrators on each shoe. To make it compact, Castle eliminated microprocessors and converters. He carefully chose and tested components that would run on four and half volts, or about three AAA batteries, then

packed all the wiring into the fourth slot of a four-battery pack.

"I tried to be practical in my thoughts of how the system would work," says Castle. "There's an on-off switch on the battery pack, so when you are sitting, the vibrating motors won't annoy you."

"The sensor on the toe of the shoe locates obstacles in front. One on the laces shows overhanging obstacles. And I set the sensor on the side to half a meter, so you wouldn't be constantly alerted about objects off to the side while you're moving forward."

The vibrating motors are also spaced apart, so the client can identify which sensor is giving information. And the closer the obstacle, the stronger the vibration.

With a working prototype in hand, Castle contacted the Lowell Association for the Blind to find a volunteer tester. Dana Bernor was happy to give the first shoe a "test walk."

Bernor made some suggestions—to spread the motors a little farther apart for better discrimination, for example—and then asked to keep the final pair of shoes.

"The shoes can enhance the mobility of blind and visually impaired people," says Bernor. "They are especially useful in new environments where using a cane would be impracticable."

Castle had to train Bernor, as a new user, in how to use the shoes and interpret the information. "Richard is easy to work with, patient and a good teacher," says Bernor.

The staff at the Lowell Association for the Blind were also enthusiastic, a gratifying response for the young inventor, who says, "I have a lot of ideas for projects."

Castle graduated in May, 2002, and is currently an MBA candidate.



▲ Three sensors on each shoe (on the toe, the laces, and the side) locate obstacles in the front, above and to the side. The person is alerted by three vibrating motors connected to the sensors. The system is controlled by a AAA battery pack that contains three batteries and all the circuitry.

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## O'Leary Library Renovation Nears Completion

"The enthusiasm, flexibility, and dedication of all the staff to better serve our patrons ensured a smooth and successful transition," says Library Director Pat Noreau. She expressed her thanks to the team that has been working so hard on the project, including John Callahan, head of Technical Services, with Jason Kramer and

**There will be 20 new computers available for research, new furniture, and artwork and freshly painted rooms**

all the students they employ; Ellen Keane, head of Access Services; Suzanne Nault, head of Technical Services and Acquisitions; the grounds crew headed by Norman LeClair; and Rose Paton, support staff in Access Services.

—JH

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## Student Admin Section of PeopleSoft Enters the 'Home Stretch'

Since transactions can be completed online, the information travels faster than it does with traditional paper processes. This also reduces the chances that documents will be lost in transit and provides for faster responses to requests.

Using PeopleSoft, students can request admissions information, apply, enroll, pay tuition, monitor financial aid and manage course work online. No more waiting in lines: all services and authorized transactions will be easily accessible from any PC on campus, at home or elsewhere.

Staff employees and administrators can process admissions and enrollment, evaluate transfer credits, administer financial aid, manage student records and analyze enrollment and graduation statistics online.

The system also will generate savings by reducing reliance on U.S. mail.

Advisors can track student grades and analyze degree progress online.

Faculty can review classroom schedules and grading online.

In addition, PeopleSoft will provide opportunities for significant process re-engineering. The implementation of the student system will make it possible to analyze and correct inefficient processes and replace them with more modern business practices.

The Boston, Dartmouth and Lowell campuses have chosen to implement this system as a collaborative, using a single database and a centralized hardware and software infrastructure.

—JMcD

## From Career Services to Careers

Nearly 100 graduating seniors learned how to market themselves for employment at an open house sponsored last month by the Office of Career Services. The event highlighted the variety of services offered throughout the year to help students enter the job market, including presentations on interviewing skills, resume writing and job-search techniques; career service counseling; on-campus recruiting by potential employers; on line job postings; and seminars on dressing professionally.



▲ Director Patricia Yates gives some pointers to, from left, Dan Burke, Olotu Wariebi and Linyun Ye, while



▲ Robert Njoroge, takes note of the advice offered by Associate Director Kristen Rhyner.

## Hargreaves Speaks about Education in the Age of Insecurity

◀ Dr. Andrew Hargreaves, seated, who holds the Thomas More Brennan Chair in Education at Boston College, recently spoke about "Teaching in the Knowledge Society: Education in the Age of Insecurity" at the annual Virginia M. Biggy lecture. Also pictured is Dr. Biggy, seated, who served as the University of Lowell's Dean of the College of Education from 1979 to 1989, for whom the guest lecture program is named; Judith Davidson, assistant professor of education at UMass Lowell; and Donald Pierson, dean of the Graduate School of Education. Hargreaves has published more than 20 books and is an expert on educational leadership.



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## "Thinking Out Loud" Connects Through Radio

social justice and peacemaking, as well as news and information for the Cambodian and Hispanic communities.

"The Spanish-speaking community approached us first," says Toomey, "because they had lost their outlet on another station. Now we have programs run by 20 volunteers-members of community groups, staff people and students."

The programming is an eclectic mix. One hour is broadcast in Spanish, another in Khmer. CFWC Asst. Project Manager Julie Villareal hosts

"Environmental Corner," a thirty-minute segment. Another half hour is given to "Voices of Our World," produced by the Maryknoll Order. Jim Giddings, of the American Friends Service Committee, presents live interviews with local business and non-profit leaders at 10, and from 6 to 8 a.m., Giddings runs public affairs features downloaded from the Internet.

Toomey, whose background as a union staff representative and firefighter informs his approach to media, is excited about a new project that is evolving from the success of the radio program.

The new Media Strategy project is being planned to train representatives of religious, labor and community non-profit organizations on how to interact with the media. Participants in the early planning stages include the Labor Extension Program at UMass Lowell, coordinated by Susan Winning, and radio producers from Tufts University and Boston College.

"People need to understand how to talk on the radio to get their message across and how to use the equipment to produce their own radio programming," says Toomey. "Our mission is to relate big picture issues to people's daily lives."

—SS



▲ Dan Toomey, program manager at the Center for Family, Work and Community, produces a six-hour news magazine program that is broadcast Wednesdays on WJUL.



## CITA Calls for Conference Papers

The Committee on Industrial Theory and Assessment (CITA) is calling for paper proposals on the theme of 'Education for Sustainable Development' to be presented at its conference, Oct. 23-24.

Overall, the conference will examine the role for the university as an institution in promoting sustainable development given the fast-changing global economy.

Papers may address issues ranging from the ways universities are embed-

ding themselves in their region's geographic, social, and economic fabric, to whether greater equity in educational opportunity is necessary for sustainable development.

Abstracts are due by March 31. For information, contact Forrant, ext. 2904 or rforrant@external.umass.edu, or Prof. Linda Silka, ext. 4247 or Linda\_Silka@uml.edu.

Learn more about the conference at [www.uml.edu/com/CITA/](http://www.uml.edu/com/CITA/).

## Students Launch Visual and Performing Arts Center

After more than 2,000 volunteer hours, 45 gallons of paint and 1,300 square feet of carpeting, drab space in Fox Hall has been transformed into a new campus Visual and Performing Arts Center.

The student-run center—which was more than a year in the planning—was launched last month with an evening of entertainment that included an a cappella group from Ohio and a Boston comedian.

"We want to give the students something to do on the weekends, while also giving anybody an opportunity to get up on stage," said Steve Fiola, a senior music business major, who conceived the plan.

The new entertainment venue is expected to feature bands and other musical acts, as well as comedians and theatrical performers. The center also will provide an opportunity for exhibits by visual artists such as painters, sculptors, photographers and graphic designers. Fiola plans to have the entertainment typically be free for students, with a minimal cover charge as needed for more established acts and a small fee charged for non-students.

Student Life Dean Larry Siegel said the center neatly ties into the

University's mission to promote experiential learning, leadership development and faculty involvement with students outside the classroom.

"It's perfect," beamed Siegel at the opening. "With a little bit of guidance and a lot of support, our students have realized their own vision without waiting for the University to have a vision to guide them."

The third-floor Fox Hall space was totally revamped, with new carpeting, slate-gray paint, sound system and lighting. It currently consists of a stage and a wide-open floor, but the next phase includes plans for fixed theatre-style seating, student artwork and murals decorating the walls and a projector for film festivals.

The center will be managed by students, with guidance from Music Prof. Richard Strasser and the Office of Student Affairs, and will fall under the Student Government Association. Students will serve as managers of marketing, promotions and bookings; artistic and technical directors; and general crew.

"This is totally student run, from start to finish," Fiola said.

## Design Lab Entices Young Engineers with After-School Program



▲ Esteban Hoyos, left, Alex Tran and Clancy Allard are three of the students from the Wang Middle School involved in DesignLab, an after-school program to introduce science and engineering concepts as students design and build their own electrical inventions.



▲ Corey Warren, also from the Wang School, uses a drill press to advance his project in DesignLab, which is funded by the National Science Foundation to encourage student interest in science and engineering.



## Art Department Exhibits a Really Big Show

▲ Jason Roy, on left, won "Best of Show" at The Big Show, a juried exhibition of work by art students. Artwork has been on display in the Dugan Gallery. Attending the exhibit reception with Roy were, from left, Prof. Tudor Mitroi, Lindsey Rudolph, Lisa Vivona, Fred Ata, Erica Salsman, Prof. Arno Minkinen, Gallery Coordinator Michele Auger, Prof. Mark Eshbaugh, and Gail Milligan. Also receiving honors were Stephanie Chiodo (Award for Excellence), Amy Claus (Honorable Mention, 2D) and Jesse Mayr (Honorable Mention, 3D and Students' Pick).

## WEB UPDATE

### Alumni and Friends Gather in a New Place Online

Alumni Relations has launched a redesigned Web site to help alumni and friends connect to the University. The site outlines the benefits and services of being an alumnus, ways to give to the University, and ways to keep in touch and stay involved including a calendar of events. Designed by Web Director Gerry Nelson, the site can be viewed at <http://www.uml.edu/Alumni/>.



▲ The student-run Visual and Performing Arts Center opened last month with the support of, from left, John Harrison, Student Government Association president; Larry Siegel, dean of student life; Steve Fiola, senior music business major and center president; Greg Wilder, associate director of residence life; and Music Prof. Richard Strasser, the center's faculty advisor.

## When in Doubt, Use Precaution

In everyday decisions, we tend to use caution. Can't tell how deep the water is? Don't jump in.

Playground equipment seems a little wobbly? Keep the toddler off.

Never heard of the airline? Take a pass.

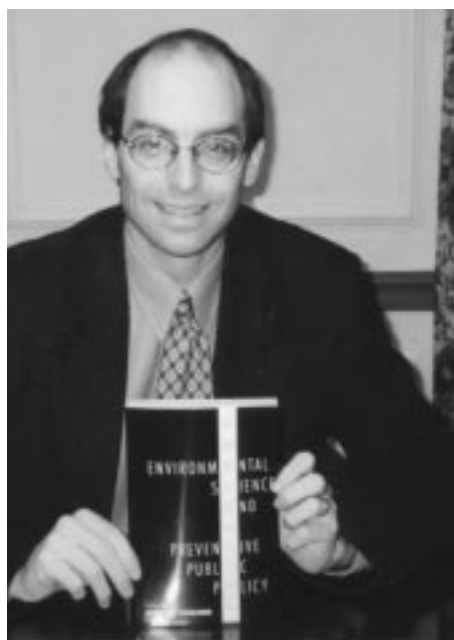
But in public policy, argues Joel Tickner, research assistant professor in Work Environment and project director at the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, we have tended to do the opposite, moving forward with production techniques unless science could show conclusive evidence of harmful effects.

Tickner has edited a book—*Precaution, Environmental Science and Preventive Public Policy*—published by Island Press, that explores a precautionary approach to policy-making.

The “precautionary principle” is the idea that society should err on the side of caution in moving forward with potentially harmful technologies, even if all the cause and effect relationships have not been fully established. Sometimes attacked as unscientific, the precautionary principle is in fact science-based according to the book's contributors—leading scientists, legal experts, philosophers, environmental health professionals and environmentalists.

Science is critical in understanding and promoting sustainability, says Tickner. Current practice in environmental science, in which problems are addressed after pollution has occurred and hazards are identified, works against a more precautionary approach.

“The main point of the book,” says Tickner, “is that precaution has a lot to



▲ Joel Tickner, research assistant professor in Work Environment and project director at the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, has edited a book—*Precaution, Environmental Science and Preventive Public Policy*—that explores a precautionary approach to policy-making in environmental and public health.

do with the way we do science for policy and we need to expand the tools, methods, and disciplines in scientific analysis if we're going to make truly precautionary decisions. What makes UMass Lowell unique is that we're the experts in thinking about innovative methods to characterize risk, and we are also leaders in technology and policy to support prevention. We are the ones people come to when they want to know how to make processes and products safer and cleaner.”

Tickner is also the guest editor of a recent special issue of *Public Health Reports on Science and Precaution*.

## Note Worthy

Prof. Sammy Shina, of the Mechanical Engineering Dept., will be a judge in the New Hampshire Regional robotics competition of FIRST—For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. More than 800 teams nationally and internationally will be competing in 23 regional events. FIRST is designed to motivate young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology and engineering.

Prof. James Whitten says the National Science Foundation has awarded the Chemistry Department a three-year, \$107,000 grant to continue its work in developing low-cost spectroscopy experiments for chemical education.

“This will help our physical chemistry program develop the most modern laser experiments in the world for our undergraduate teaching labs,” Whitten says.

Ronald A. Ferrara, project manager for the Division of Capital Assets Management (DCAM), has informed Chancellor William T. Hogan that the University's Campus Center project has won a Marvin Black National Partnering Award from the Associated General Contrac-

tors of America. The award is given for excellence in partnering.

“I appreciate the many positive contributions that the UML staff made throughout the study, design and construction phases,” Ferrara said. “Together, UMass Lowell, DCAM, Architectural Resources of Cambridge and Consigli Construction produced a first class building.”

The project was conducted under the direction of **Diana Prideaux-Brune**, special assistant for Economic Development in the University's Office of Economic Development. **Hector Valdes** was project manager.

An article by UMass Lowell ombudsman **Dr. Alan Lincoln**, “Visitors' Expectations, Power and the Resolution Process,” appeared recently in the *College and University Ombuds Journal*. Lincoln, not long ago, was appointed to the *Journal's* editorial board.

He also recently completed certification training in mediation, as well as an advanced training course in transformative mediation. He is available to assist any member of the University community who believes he or she might benefit from the mediation of any University-generated conflict.

## Promotions & Appointments

### Promotions

**Christine Bryan**, assistant director of Undergraduate Admissions, from admissions counselor.

**Joanne M. Gagnon**, staff assistant I in the College of Arts and Sciences, from secretary in physics.

**Diane L. Goodrich**, staff assistant I in the College of Arts and Sciences, from secretary in chemistry.

### Appointments

**Suzanne A. Gamache**, coordinator of tutoring services in the Centers for Learning, from University coordinator of the New Horizons Program at Lowell High School.

**Lori Gevelinger**, manager of Commons Technical Services, from database development team leader at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

**Suxin Wang**, researcher in oxidant stress in the Research Foundation, from project manager in research and development in the Netherlands.



## V-Day Event Talks Straight to Men

▲ Jason Brill of Alternative House, Imogene Stulken, UMass Lowell Campus Ministries, Jennifer Gooch, a graduate student in Community Social Psychology, standing from left, Wenimo Poweigha, male educator and Elizabeth Cohen, executive director, both of the Rape Crisis Services of Greater Lowell, seated, participated in the “These Hands Will Not Harm Women” discussion in February. Brill and Poweigha, the featured speakers, addressed what men can do to prevent violence against women and girls. The event was part of the University's V-Day festivities and was sponsored by the Peace and Conflict Studies Institute.



# Pierson Named Scholar in the City

There's probably only one former Massachusetts governor whose face ever adorned the bottom of a chamber pot. The honor is exclusively that of Benjamin Butler of Lowell, a union officer who became infamous throughout the South during the Civil War before returning home to assume the state's highest office.

"Butler was widely hated in the South; he was widely controversial for his occupations of Southern cities during the war," says Prof. Michael Pierson of the History Department.

The Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center advisory board just named Pierson the Scholar in the City for 2003. He will be performing extensive research on Butler, perhaps Lowell's best known 19th century figure.

Butler began in Lowell as an attorney who developed an interest in labor activism, often defending mill workers against their Whig-party employers. This experience was important to him when he went on to serve as an officer for the Union army.



▲ Prof. Michael Pierson, history, will spend the next year as the Mogan Cultural Center's Scholar in the City. He will be researching the life of former Massachusetts governor, Civil War figure and Lowell native, Benjamin Butler.

According to Pierson, "Almost all experts on that era have an opinion on Benjamin Butler, mostly negative."

Pierson says the enigmatic Butler was a "military disaster" on the battlefield. Yet, he effectively commanded the occupation of Baltimore in 1861 and New Orleans in 1862.

"He was uniquely ready to take the job of occupying general," says Pierson. "He knew how to play class politics, ethnic politics, racial politics, and it was his time in the sophisticated

city of Lowell, with its diversity of class and ethnicity, that prepared him for the task."

Pierson, who's in his fourth year of teaching at UMass Lowell, plans to incorporate his research into a book on unionism in New Orleans. The \$2,500 Scholar in the City award will enable him to do research at the Library of Congress in Washington, studying Butler's personal papers.

Pierson will also spend time at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester and the Center for Lowell History at the Mogan Center, which has quite a collection of Butler cartoons, among other important documents.

The Scholar in the City program is sponsored by the Lowell National Historical Park in partnership with UMass Lowell.

According to the Mogan Center coordinator, Mehmed Ali, "The primary purpose of the program is to develop new scholarship on Lowell's industrial and immigrant past and its present day sense of community."

Pierson will give a public presentation of his research on Butler at the end of the year.

"I'm trying to reclaim him from history," Pierson says.

## Obituary

### Richard Welton, Housekeeping Department

Richard T. Welton, a member of the University's housekeeping department for 23 years, died Feb. 2 at D'Youville Senior Care Center in Lowell. He was 52.

A Lowell native, Mr. Welton had been educated at the Beverly School for the Deaf and the American School for the Deaf.

## Documentary Film, Local History Project Among Bell's Recent Initiatives

History Prof. Caryn Cossé Bell, a co-author of the recent three-year, \$1 million "Communities of Scholars, Communities of Classrooms" grant from the U.S. Department of Education, is also currently serving as research director for an upcoming 60-minute documentary set in New Orleans.

The film, "Stories from the Fauborg Tremé," chronicles the history of the oldest African-American neighborhood in New Orleans. Other project participants include jazz musician Wynton Marsalis and poet Brenda Marie Osbey, both New Orleanians.

The DEA-funded grant program will partner UMass Lowell with the Tsongas Center, the Lowell National Historic Park and the city's public schools in a project that targets Lowell's fifth- through eighth-grade history teachers.

In addition, Bell is working with the Deep South Regional Humanities Center at Tulane University in New Orleans to construct a multi-media timeline to commemorate the bicentennial of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. The project will serve as an educational tool for the New Orleans Museum of Art and the Louisiana State Museum, as well as the general public.

## Research Notes

**Christensen, Charles**  
\$24,090  
Greater Lawrence Technical High School  
Leadership Development Proposal

**Crumbly, Cathy**  
\$10,000  
The Bauman Foundation  
Support for A Conference on European Chemicals Policy

**Donohue, Matthew**  
\$25,000  
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
Municipal Stewardship Training and Measurement Program

**Gartner, Nathan**  
\$15,000  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Implementation of a Web-Based Course on Traffic Principles for Intelligent Transportation Systems (Phase II)

**Hellstedt, Jon**  
\$36,705.93  
UMass Lowell Summer Youth Program (UMLSYP)  
Research Foundation

**Hines, Mark**  
\$42,646  
National Science Foundation  
Collaborative Research: Mercury Cycling in Soils: Dynamic Sources for Aquatic Environments

**Kegel, Gunter**  
\$8,000  
National Technical Systems  
Radiation Resistance Testing

**Lazonick, William**  
\$70,000  
National Science Foundation  
The Stock Market and Innovative Capability in the Optical Networking Industry

**Montesalvo, Mary**  
\$6,500  
Spectrum Technologies  
Radiation Exposure of Components

**Montesalvo, Mary**  
\$8,000  
National Technical Systems  
Radiation Resistance Testing

**Montesalvo, Mary**  
\$7,400  
ICI DeVoe Coatings  
Decontaminability and Evaluation of Coating Samples

**O'Connell, Peter**  
\$5,700  
Massachusetts Cultural Council  
Massachusetts Cultural Council General Operating

**Orroth, Stephen**  
\$5,000  
Konarka Technologies, Inc.  
Development of Materials and Processing Methods for Photovoltaic Applications

**Richardson, Charles**  
\$11,694.40  
United Steelworkers of America  
Union and Technological Change

**Ryan, David**  
\$40,204  
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
Stormwater Treatment Systems

**Song, Paul**  
\$2,501,347  
Air Force Research Laboratory  
Imaging and Forecasting of Ionospheric Structures and their System Impacts

**Stamatiadis, Chronis**  
\$15,000  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Implementation of a Web-Based Course on Traffic Principles for Intelligent Transportation Systems (Phase II)

**Tickner, Joel**  
\$10,000  
The Bauman Foundation  
Support for A Conference on European Chemicals Policy

**Tries, Mark**  
\$7,400  
ICI DeVoe Coatings  
Decontaminability and Evaluation of Coating Samples

**Woskie, Susan**  
\$108,133  
Yale University School of Medicine  
Longitudinal Study of Isocyanate Asthma in Autobody Shops: SPRAY Followup Study

**Woskie, Susan**  
\$104,162  
Yale University School of Medicine  
Longitudinal Study of Isocyanate Asthma in Autobody Shops: SPRAY Followup Study

## Conversation Dinner to Address "Teaching Excellence"

The upcoming Conversation Dinner for UMass Lowell faculty, "Teaching Excellence at UML: Engagement, Understanding and Commitment," will be held Wednesday, March 12 at 3:15 p.m. in the faculty lounge of Lydon Library. It will be sponsored by the Enrichment Task Force of the Council on Teaching, Learning and Research as Scholarship.

For information, call (978) 934-2923.

# Calendar of Events

## Wednesday, Feb. 26

**Performance, STARTS** (Student and Teacher Arts) program, "Dream Keepers," performing arts for school field trips, grades 7 and up, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Tickets \$5. 9:30 a.m. Durgin Hall, South Campus. For information and reservations, call the STARTS hotline (978) 934-4452

**Lowell Women's Week,** "Mary Giehl: Foose—Doll," an interactive installation that attempts to analyze and disentangle beliefs in the American culture about how we relate as a society to our children, runs through March 28 University Gallery, South Campus, 71 Wilder St.. For more information, call Anne Mulvey (978) 934-3965

**Chancellor's Open Meeting Hours,** Opportunity for faculty, staff and students to meet with 'the Chancellor,' staff: 2 - 3:00 p.m., students: 3 - 4:00 p.m., faculty: 4 - 5:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Trustees' Room, Cumnock Hall, North Campus. For information, call the Chancellor's Office (978) 934-2201

## Thursday, Feb. 27

**Black Arts Festival,** "Black Magic," original songs by UML music majors Robin Burnett, Maxx Lewis, Stanley Swan and friends 1:00 p.m. Durgin Concert Hall. For information, contact Stephan Coggs (978) 934-2231

**Career Workshop,** "Dine and Dress for Success," Rosanne Thomas of Protocol Advisors explains how to best present yourself in professional settings, registration deadline is Feb. 19, cost is \$15 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Alumni Hall, Lydon Library. For information, call Career Services (978) 934-2355

**Performance,** "The Vagina Monologues," part of the V-Day College Campaign. Tickets \$5 students, \$10 general public, proceeds will benefit Alternative House Women's Services and Rape Crisis Services of Greater Lowell. 7:00 p.m. Mahoney Auditorium. For information, call (978) 934-5001

## Friday, Feb. 28

Performance, "The Vagina Monologues," part of the V-Day College Campaign. Tickets \$5 students, \$10 general public, proceeds will benefit Alternative House Women's Services and Rape Crisis Services of Greater Lowell. 7:00 p.m. Mahoney Auditorium. For information, call (978) 934-5001

## Saturday, Mar. 1

**Performance,** "The Vagina Monologues," part of the V-Day College Campaign. Tickets \$5 students, \$10 general public, proceeds will benefit Alternative House Women's Services and Rape Crisis Services of Greater Lowell. 7:00 p.m. Mahoney Auditorium. For information, call (978) 934-5001

**Hockey,** vs. Northeastern 7:00 p.m. Tsongas Arena. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK

## Sunday, Mar. 2

**Performance,** Discovery Series, "Frogz," Imago Theatre, 2 and 4 p.m., best for ages 4 and up. Tickets \$10, group discounts available. 2:00 p.m. Durgin Hall, South Campus. For information or tickets, call the Center for the Arts (978) 934-4444

## Monday, Mar. 3

Performance, STARTS (Student and Teacher Arts) program, "Romeo and Juliet," performing arts for school field trips, grades 7 and up, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Tickets \$5. 9:30 a.m. Durgin Hall, South Campus. For information and reservations, call the STARTS hotline (978) 934-4452

**Concert,** Faculty Concert Series: Wind Ensemble Concerto Competition, David Martins, Director 7:30 p.m. Durgin Concert Hall, South Campus. For more information, call (978) 934-3850

## Tuesday, Mar. 4

**Lowell Women's Week Presentation,** "Studying Gender," members of the gender studies community present approaches to conducting projects related to women, girls, and gender issues. 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Coburn Hall, South Campus. For more information, call Anne Mulvey (978) 934-3965

**Lowell Women's Week,** "Love Your Body," a celebration of women's bodies the way they are-in every size, color and shape; includes video demonstrations, discussions, and a Yoga session with Manisha Sharma 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Student Recreation Center, 100 Pawtucket St.. For more information, call Anne Mulvey (978) 934-3965

## Wednesday, Mar. 5

**Lowell Women's Week,** "Braided Streams: Women of Faith Speak," a panel of women from diverse faith traditions share their experiences as women in their respective traditions, group discussion will follow 9:00 a.m. McGauvran 410, South Campus. For more information, call Anne Mulvey (978) 934-3965

**Lowell Women's Week Reception,** "Mary Giehl: Foose-Doll," an interactive installation that analyzes images and beliefs in the American culture about how we relate to our children, Gallery Talk at 3 p.m. 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. University Gallery, South Campus. For more information, call Anne Mulvey (978) 934-3965

**Exhibit Reception,** Student graphic design, exhibit runs through March 26 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Dugan Gallery, South Campus. For information, call (978) 934-3491

**Exhibit Reception,** "Foos-Doll," an interactive installation analyzing images and beliefs in the American

culture about how we relate to our children, gallery talk, 3 p.m. Exhibit runs through March 28. 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. University Gallery, McGauvran Student Center, South Campus. For information, call (978) 934-3491

**Lowell Women's Week Film,** "With Babies and Banners," presents the story of the women who were the backbone of the 1937 General Motors Sit-Down Strike in Flint, Michigan 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. O'Leary 329, South Campus. For more information, call Anne Mulvey (978) 934-3965

## Thursday, Mar. 6

**Meeting,** Qualitative Research Network Meeting, Jessica Price, Ed.D., will present "Qualitative Research Methods, NVivo, and Non-traditional Students in Nursing programs," lunch will be served 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Wannalancit Building, first floor conference room. For information, contact (978) 934-3291 or Craig\_Slatin@uml.edu

**Lowell Women's Week Film,** "Working Women of the World," film on international women's work and lives, discussion with students from many different countries will follow 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. O'Leary 222, South Campus. For more information, call Anne Mulvey (978) 934-3965

## Friday, Mar. 7

**Conference,** "Promoting Healthy and Safe Employment in Healthcare," addresses the relationship among staffing levels, employee safety and health, and service delivery 8:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. BU Corporate Education Center, Tyngsboro, MA. For information, contact Perry Honeychurch (978) 934-2908 or visit <http://uml.edu/phase>

## Monday, Mar. 10

**Performance, STARTS** (Student and Teacher Arts) program, "The Mystery of King Tut," performing arts for school field trips, grades 3-6, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Tickets \$5. 9:30 a.m. Durgin Hall, South Campus. For information and reservations, call the STARTS hotline (978) 934-4452

**Seminar,** "The Organized Labor and Tobacco Control Network-Considering Class in Health Promotion Efforts," speakers include Elizabeth M. Barbeau, ScD, MPH, Center for Community-Based Research, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, and Charles Levenstein, Work Environment prof. 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. McGauvran Building, Rm. 410, South Campus. For information, call Craig Slatin, (978) 934-3291

## Tuesday, Mar. 11

**Memorial Service,** Service to commemorate and honor the life and achievements of Psychology Professor Joseph Waterman 3:00 p.m. O'Leary Library, room 222. For information, call (978) 934-3950

## Wednesday, Mar. 12

**Open Meeting Hours,** Opportunity for faculty, staff and students to meet with William T. Hogan, Chancellor, staff: 2 - 3:00 p.m., students: 3 - 4:00 p.m., faculty: 4 - 5:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Trustees' Room, Cumnock Hall, North Campus. For information, call the Chancellor's Office (978) 934-2201

**Conversation Dinner,** "Teaching Excellence at UML: Engagement, Understanding, and Commitment" 3:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Faculty Lounge, Lydon Library. For information, call (978) 934-2923

*Continued on Page 7*



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